United Nations A/60/795

General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 April 2006

Original: English

Sixtieth session
Agenda item 112 (e)
Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of 47 members of the Human Rights Council

Note verbale dated 11 April 2006 from the Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretariat

The Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat and has the honour to inform that the Government of Nigeria has decided to present its candidature to the Human Rights Council at elections to be held on 9 May 2006, and to this end submits herewith its pledges and commitments for the protection and promotion of human rights in conformity with operative paragraph 8 of resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 (see annex).

Nigeria is firmly committed to its belief in the principles of dignity and equality of all human beings and seeks the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction. In this connection, Nigeria is signatory to all United Nations conventions and treaties on human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights.

Nigeria has contributed immensely to the promotion and protection of democracy and human rights at subregional and regional levels, and has been in the forefront for reform of the United Nations human rights machinery to ensure that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms is accorded the importance it deserves. Nigeria is convinced that its membership in the Human Rights Council will contribute significantly to the realization of the noble goals and objectives of the Human Rights Council.

06-31805 (E) 010506

Annex to the note verbale dated 11 April 2006 from the Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretariat

The Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat, and further to its note of 11 April 2006, by which the Government of Nigeria announced its candidacy to the Human Rights Council, has the honour to forward herewith the text of the pledges and commitments of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, in support of its candidacy to the Human Rights Council (see enclosure) at elections to be held in New York on 9 May 2006, and to request that it be issued as a document of the General Assembly.

Enclosure

Human Rights Council: Nigeria's voluntary pledges and commitments

The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

Strongly welcomes the establishment of the Human Rights Council;

Commits itself to the purposes and objectives of the Human Rights Council;

Undertakes to cooperate fully with the Human Rights Council and through active participation in the work of the Council, and in cooperation with members of the Council, non-members as well as regional organizations and civil society, to make the Council a credible, strong, fair and effective United Nations human rights body;

Expresses its readiness to submit itself to the universal periodic review mechanism;

Pledges to cooperate with the treaty monitoring bodies of the Council, including through submission of timely periodic reports and the implementation of concluding observations and recommendations;

Pledges to contribute actively to the development of human rights culture and the integration of human rights into United Nations activities as well as regional organizations such as the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States;

Reaffirms its determination and commitment to continue to promote and protect human rights at home by strengthening and actively supporting the work of the National Human Rights Commission, in order to make it more effective in carrying out its mandate;

Expresses its determination to continue to play, at regional and international levels, a responsible and leading role in the promotion and protection of peace, stability and democracy;

Commits itself to the promotion and protection of all human rights, particularly civil and political rights, and economic, social and cultural rights including the right to development;

Reaffirms its commitment to work for the strengthening of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

Reaffirms its commitment to the maintenance of an open door policy on human rights issues and to this end, reaffirms its preparedness to welcome human rights inspectors, special rapporteurs and representatives to visit Nigeria in order to carry out their respective mandates without hindrance;

Reaffirms its commitment to cooperate fully with other special procedures of the Council and to work towards upholding the rule of law and to encourage constructive dialogue and international cooperation in the field of human rights;

Reaffirms its commitment to uphold the principles of non-discrimination and the protection and promotion of the human rights of all its citizens and to this end, to accelerate the process of full domestication of relevant international human rights conventions including the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

Reaffirms its commitment to the following international human rights instruments which it has ratified without any reservations:

- ✓ International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
- ✓ International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
- ✓ Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;
- ✓ Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
- ✓ Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- ✓ ILO Convention 182 on Elimination of Child Labour;
- ✓ Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women;
- ✓ African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights;
- ✓ Convention Against Transnational Organized Crimes ;
- ✓ Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air;
- ✓ Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children;
- ✓ Protocol Against Manufacture, Sale and Trafficking in Firearms and their parts;
- ✓ Convention Against Corruption;
- ✓ Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;

Undertakes to accede, as soon as practicable, to the International Convention on the Protection of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Family and to examine the possibility, in the near future, of signing, ratifying or acceding to human rights instruments to which Nigeria is not yet a signatory, including the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide;

Undertakes to continue to uphold the provisions of the Conventions, Protocols or Covenants to which it has ratified and pledges to regularly report on their implementation to the treaty monitoring bodies of the Human Rights Council.